

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS FROM NEW DELHI FEB 10
REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2016

OECD FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR IN

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 7206

1. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT WITH GOI OFFICIALS. THEY ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE. THE OFFICIAL SELECTED TO COORDINATE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOI AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY IN THE WFC IS MR. ABU HAKIM, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN AID DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THE GOI AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR IN ROME, MR. K. PRASAD, HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT INDIA AT THE PREPCOM MEETINGS.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS AND GOI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED
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WFC AGENDA ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSALS LISTED IN PARA 10

OF REFTEL. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, IF IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT WFC WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE OVERLAPPING WITH INTERRELATED AREAS SUCH AS POPULATION GROWTH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE ENERGY PROBLEM WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON FERTILIZER. SOME ITEMS WHICH WE THINK SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING THE AGENDA ARE:

A. STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING MORE ACCURATE DATA ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT NEEDS OR EXPORT AVAILABILITIES INCLUDING SHORT TERM (ONE OR TWO YEARS) PROJECTIONS OF THE FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION.

B. DEVELOP, IF POSSIBLE, A WORKABLE PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING FOOD RESERVES. EMBASSY OFFICERS BELIEVE WUCH A PLAN SHOULD BE BUILT AROUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RESERVES (IN PREFERENCE TO REGIONAL OR WORLD RESERVES) WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS BY FAO. ON THIS POINT THE GOI DOES NOT YET HAVE A FIRM POSITION AS TO WHETHER IT FAVORS NATIONAL RESERVES OR REGIONAL RESERVES. SOME OFFICIALS IN THE GOI, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, SEEM TO FAVOR REGIONAL RESERVES ALTHOUGH PROPOSED ADMINISISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR PROCURING AND CONTROLLING SUCH RESERVES HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED.

C. ONE ADDITIONAL ITEM WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND GOI OFFICIALS BELIEVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AGENDA IS A PANEL OF REPRESENTQTIVES FROM THREE OR FOUR LDC'S WHICH HAVE MADE UNUSUALLY FAST PROGRESS IN INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES. THE PANEL MEMBERS WOULD DISCUSS THEIR PRODUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHARP INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. PARTICIPANTS ON THIS PANEL WOULD BE SELECTED BY FAO.

D. ANTOHER POINT WHICH WE THINK SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED AT THE WFC IS A MORE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION, STORING, TRANSPORTING, AND PROCESSING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH MAY HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO RAPIDLY INCREASE THEIR DOMESTIC FOOD SUPPLIES.

3. GOI OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO STRONGLY EMPHASIZE THREE POINTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WFC. THESE ARE:

A. DEVELOP A WORKABLE PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING WORLD FOOD RESERVES,

B. DEVELOP A MORE EUITABLE PROCEDURE FOR SHARING WORLD FOOD SURPLUSES AND

C. DEVELOP A MORE EQUITABLE PROCEDURE FOR SHARING ESSENTIAL
PRODUCTION INPUTS SUCH AS FERTILIZER. THEY POINT OUT THAT A MORE
EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTION REQUISITES WOULD GO A LONG
WAY TOWARD OVERCOMING PRODUCTION DISPARITIES AND IN THE LONG RUN
WOULD BE MUCH MORE ECONOMICAL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAN TO
IMPORT AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

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